



**Pacific Northwest Region**  
**Malheur National Forest**  
**541-575-3000**  
[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)

# FIRE UPDATE

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## ***Thunderstorm generates heavy fire activity in the local area***

**JOHN DAY, OR** – Multiple fires have been reported to the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center (JDIDC) as a result of recent lightning activity. A reconnaissance observation flight is scheduled for today to scout for new fires and search for fires that were reported but not located. Several fire lookouts across the forest are also staffed and on the lookout for smoke. More fires are expected to be reported throughout the day and lightning is in the forecast throughout the day.

The **Harper Creek Complex** consists of three fires at this time totaling about 443 acres, all currently burning on private lands.

The main Harper Creek Fire, located just south of the town of Mount Vernon, is estimated at 321 acres. It is figured to be 90% dozer lined. The fire had been held at about 30 acres until strong winds switched the fires direction, pushing it north towards various structures, prompting an evacuation of Harper Creek Road residents. Heavy rains followed the wind storm, which assisted resources in gaining control of the fire where they were able to hold it overnight.

The second fire of the complex is the Hog Creek Fire, located in the Slide Creek vicinity near Long Creek, and is estimated around 96 acres. Additionally, there is figured to be five incidents in the Laycock Creek vicinity totaling about 26 acres.

A local Type 3 Incident Management Team is assigned to the complex. They will continue to monitor activity and assign resources as needed in ensure public and firefighter safety.

John Day Oregon Department of Forestry has three additional fires. Two of which are under 1/10 of an acre, and one that is at about 20 acres.

The **Jones Canyon Fire**, managed by Fossil Oregon Department of Forestry, is located near Monument, Oregon. This fire is now 248 acres. Resources have been engaged and will continue to work towards containment.

The **North half of the Malheur National Forest** has been relatively active. There were nine new fires reported in since the weekend on the Blue Mountain Ranger District. Prairie City Ranger District only received one new fire report at this time. Crews have been responding and working tediously in keeping these minimal in size.

The **South half** of the Forest has remained relatively calm. One new fire was reported on the Emigrant Creek Ranger District yesterday afternoon. This fire is less than one acre, and the cause is under investigation. Additionally, one new fire was reported this morning near Allison Guard Station. Crews are still working to locate.

A low pressure system is responsible for the scattered thunderstorms across the region, with drier and more stable conditions behind the system. However, a red flag warning



for the greatest good

## NEWS RELEASE

*(continued)*

remains in effect as scattered thunderstorms are expected into this evening. A dry forecast is in store for the rest of the week with hot temperatures and low humidity.

The fire danger rating across the Malheur National Forest is currently at HIGH. Industrial Fire Precaution Level II and Phase A of Public Use Restrictions are in effect forest-wide.

For more information on the Malheur National Forest, please visit us at [www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur), follow [U.S. Forest Service- Malheur National Forest](#) on Facebook, and follow [@MalheurNF](#) on Twitter for all the latest forest news.

For additional forest information, contact 541-575-3000. To report a fire, please contact the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 541-575-1321, or Burns Interagency Communication Center at 541-573-1000.

Local dispatch information can be found at <http://bicc-jdidc.org/index.shtml>.

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